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OBSERVERS OR SPIES?

The following is a full translation of an article by E. STEPANKIN, published in Gudok, 29 May 1966.

The Soviet Union renders extensive and unselfish aid to developing countries, readily sharing with them its own achievements in the sphere of science and technology.

As part of this aid, in April 1966, the Ministry of Railways organized a seminar concerning diesel-electric traction. Participating in this seminar were railroad transportation specialists from countries included in the UN economic commission of countries of Asia and the Far East. Representatives of the railroads of India, Pakistan, Burma, Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Iran and Japan participated in the seminar. Such highly developed nations as France, England, and the US also sent their observers to Moscow.

The foreign guests visited Tashkent, Leningrad and Moscow, and thoroughly acquainted themselves with the development of diesel-electric traction on the railroads of the USSR and with the organization of work in various depots, plants, and scientific research institutes. According to comments by the participants of the seminar, their visit to the Soviet Union gave them the opportunity to receive valuable information about the operation and repair of locomotives, as well as the training of engineering and technical crews.

In a word, the overwhelming majority of our guests departed well satisfied with the seminar.

Bewilderment arose only because of the conduct of a large group of "observers" from the US railroads. These gentlemen distinguished themselves by their extreme curiosity. They were interested in questions not pertaining to the seminar; too often they photographed objects of railroad transportation; they looked over the notes of seminar participants, and even photographed their summaries.

Railroad workers remembered that in 1960 a delegation of the Association of American Railroads, which included Sergey Ginz, William Collier and Paul Erin, arrived in the USSR. These same gentlemen were among the "observers" at this seminar. The visit of this transatlantic

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